



**Pacific Northwest Region  
Malheur National Forest  
541-575-3000  
[www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur)**

# News Release

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## ***Training underway for rookie firefighters***

**JOHN DAY, OR** – Rookie Firefighters from across the Malheur National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Burns BLM will spend an intense week of Wildland Firefighter training this week.

The drill is part of what is known as Guard School. Each year rookie firefighters take to the classroom and field to learn everything necessary to join a firefighting crew.

The class is not only a way for rookies to get their first taste of wildland fire, but allows Squad Boss Trainees to learn important leadership skills as a Squad Boss (FFT1). It also provides a refresher for the experienced leadership.

"We will spend a lot of time in the classroom," Fire Management Officer, Brandon Culley said, "we go over a lot of situations, and we strongly emphasize on safety and taking care of each other."

Scheduled for Wednesday, June 18 crews will participate in live wildfire training. A few small fires will be ignited in an area west of Lake Creek Youth Camp, known as the Merit unit. The total size is expected to be less than three acres. This simulation will include training on how to assess hazards, constructing fire lines and "mopping up" the fire.

Mopping up is the process of locating and extinguishing all fire brands in the burn area. Crews will continue to monitor the fires until they are declared out.

Smoke may be visible in the area, as crews complete their training vital to their career and safety. Burning may have some short-term impacts on air quality levels, but any burning activity will be accomplished during weather conditions that should minimize impacts of smoke on local communities.

Kevin Brock is the coordinator this year, putting in many vital hours into planning a successful Guard School. This would not be possible without the many hours and dedication of Leadership by all agencies involved this year.

For more information on the Malheur National Forest, please visit us at [www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur), follow [U.S. Forest Service- Malheur National Forest](#) on Facebook, and follow [@MalheurNF](#) on Twitter for all the latest forest news.

For additional information, contact the Forest at 541-575-3000. To report a fire, contact the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 541-575-1321, or Burns Interagency Communication Center at 541-573-1000.

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